

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01009 151628Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
AID-05 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /093 W
-----151632Z 092434 /46

O P 151420Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5425
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1241
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1009

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR UK ZA RH US
SUBJ: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN ARRIVES IN LUSAKA IN NEGATIVE
ATMOSPHERE

REF: LUSAKA 0994

SUMMARY: UPBEAT REMARKS OF FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN HIS LUSAKA
ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING CHANGED CLIMATE IN WASHINGTON
TOWARD AFRICA, WERE NOT COVERED IN APRIL 15 ZAMBIAN PRESS BECAUSE
OF LATENESS OF HIS ARRIVAL, BUT WERE BROADCAST ON RADIO ZAMBIA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01009 151628Z

PRESS PROVIDED PROMINENT PLAY TO NKOMO'S NEGATIVE REMARKS ON OWEN'S
TRIP IN PRAGUE AND DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR
THE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN STATEMENT OPENING A PRESS CONFERENCE
ON HIS ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA THE EVENING OF APRIL 14 ADMITTED THE
COMPLEXITY OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE

EFFORTS OF THOSE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE THAN HE ABOUT AFRICA TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION HAD FAILED IN THE PAST. OWEN ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE TIME WAS OPPORTUNE FOR ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT A SETTLEMENT BUT HE WOULD RATZ THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AS ONLY A POSSIBILITY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, OWEN ENDORSED A TRULY NON-ALIGNED STANCE BY AFRICAN NATIONS. HE SEES HIS CURRENT DIFFERENCES WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, ARISING FROM HIS OBLIGATION TO LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF ALL CONCERNED, AS NOT RESTRICTING PARTICIPATION IN ANY CONFERENCE. HE BELIEVES THE PF WILL NOT REFUSE TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT THE U.S. AND U.K. OPPOSE A REFERENDUM IN RHODESIA BECAUSE IT WOULD LACK THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE RHODESIAN LEADERS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE RHODESIA, WOULD NOT END THE FIGHTING, AND WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE OAU AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD. ASKED ABOUT MUZOREWA'S PROPOSALS FOR A REFERENDUM, OWEN SAID THAT THE REFERENDUM UNDER CONDITIONS SET DOWN BY THE BISHOP SEEMED TO HIM TO BE MORE LIKE AN ELECTION WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY. THIS IS NOT THE SAME AS THE REFERENDUM PROPOSED BY SMITH TO ELECT A NEGOTIATOR FOR THE BLACK MAJORITY. OWEN STRONGLY DEFENDED THE BRITISH POLICY ON SANCTIONS STATING THAT BRITAIN HAD A BETTER RECORD THAN OTHER WESTERN NATIONS ON ADHERENCE TO SANCTIONS AND HAD PURSUED A COURSE IN THIS REGARD GUIDED BY HONOR AND OBJECTIVITY. HE SAID HE HAD CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF SANCTION BUSTING ALLEGATIONS, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FOR JUDICIAL ACTION. STATING THAT BRITAIN ALONE COULD NOT ENFORCE A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT WORKING WITH THE U.S. THERE IS A BETTER CHANCE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01009 151628Z

OWEN DESCRIBED THE PROPOSALS HE HAS BEEN DISCUSSING AS VIABLE AND THEIR RECEPTION AS GOOD AND THE BEST STRATEGY TO ADOPT AT THIS TIME. RECALLING HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE, OWEN SAID THERE WAS A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARD AFRICA IN WASHINGTON. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO MAJORITY RULE AND THE GOAL OF MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY, A COMMITMENT WHICH WILL REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THIS IS A NEW FACTOR. THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE AND EXEMPLIFIES THE NEW CLIMATE IN WASHINGTON.

2. JOSHUA NKOMO'S COMMENTS IN PRAGUE THAT HE COULD SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO INTENSIFYING THE ARMED STRUGGLE AND THAT IF ALL OWEN HAD TO OFFER WAS A PROPOSAL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, THEN HIS TRIP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS ONLY A "SAFARI", WERE FRONT-PAGED IN THE DAILY MAIL APRIL 15. ARTICLE CARRYING BANNER LEAD, "DR. OWEN'S TOUR A WASTE OF TIME", ILLUSTRATED WITH A PICTURE OF NKOMO, ALSO CITED NKOMO'S OBSERVATION THAT THE TALKS COULD ONLY BE BETWEEN THE WARRING PARTIES TO DEAL WITH THE

TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE WHITE MINORITY TO THE BLACK MAJORITY.

3. MAIL EDITORIAL BLAMES THE WEST FOR MAKING SOUTHERN AFRICA
"AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYGROUND" IN WHICH FOREIGN NATIONS ARE
VYING TO BE FIRST IN FOR THE KILL. THE BRITISH ARE FAULTED
FOR WASTING TIME IN ASCERTAINING POSITIONS ON RHODESIA SINCE
THEY HAVE KNOWN ALL THERE IS TO KNOW SINCE THE TIME OF HAROLD
WILSON. THE U.K. SHOULD BE COMING TO TELL AFRICANS THAT THE
OBSTACLE IN RHODESIA, SMITH, HAS BEEN REMOVED, NOT SIMPLY
TEREITERATING HOW MUCH THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MAJORITY
RULE. SMITH AND VORSTER'S REACTION TO OWEN'S VISIT SUGGEST
THEY SEE PREPARATION FOR TALKS TAKING A LONG TIME WHICH IS WHAT
THEY WANT. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF AN OWEN SOLUTION WOULD
SEE THE TRANSFER OF SMITH'S ARMY TO A STOOGES WHO WILL BE
REJECTED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE. THE WEST HAS READ AFRICA WRONG
AND THERE MUST BE AN AFRICAN SOLUTION. THIS IS FOR THE ARMY
FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE TO BE PUT IN POSITION OF PROTECTING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LUSAKA 01009 151628Z

INDEPENDENCE AND NOT ONE WHERE A COLONIAL ARMY REMAINS TO
PROTECT THE OPPRESSORS.

LOW

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA01009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770131-1081
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770453/aaaabtwp.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ced98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LUSAKA 994
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2795874
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN ARRIVES IN LUSAKA IN NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, OVIP, UK, ZA, RH, US, (OWEN, DAVID), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ced98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009